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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

United States Department of State

REVIEW

Assistant Secretary of State
for African Affairs

AUTHORITY: HARRY R. MELONE

Washington, D.C. 20520-3430

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(With SECRET/NOFORN Attachment)
MEMORANDUM

APR 23 1994

TO: HA - Mr. Shattuck
THROUGH: AF - Prudence Bushnell *RB* Acting
SUBJECT: Your Visit to the Organization of African Unity

I. PARTICIPANTS AND PURPOSE:

In Addis Ababa, you will call on OAU Secretary General Salim A. Salim, who has provided the inspiration and bureaucratic impetus to expand the OAU's mandate to include conflict prevention and resolution and create the necessary mechanism to make the expanded mandate a reality. Our main objective for your visit is to express appreciation and support for the OAU's initiative and to press SG Salim for continued, focused efforts in Burundi and Rwanda.

II. KEY POINTS

- o We applaud your initiatives and the OAU's resolution to engage proactively in preventing and resolving conflicts in Africa. We are convinced that African solutions to African problems is a practice of great merit. The U.S. Government has expressed its support, both diplomatically and financially to this important commitment.
- o We are gravely concerned about the continuing massacres of civilians in Rwanda and would urge you to do all in your and your institution's capability to bring this outrage to an immediate end.
- o We believe that an immediate ceasefire is of primary importance. Continued fighting between Government of Rwanda and RPF forces will only prolong the suffering of the Rwandan people and lead to instability within the region.
- o We regret that the two sides failed to meet at talks called by Tanzanian President Mwinyi for April 23. We pledge to do our part to encourage the two sides to attend the next scheduled meeting. We intend to have an Observer present when the talks commence. We are also exploring ways to provide resources to help share the burden of cost for these talks.

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- o The United States is preoccupied with the overwhelming dimension of the humanitarian tragedy in Rwanda. We will be working with other donor governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to assure that humanitarian aid reaches those seeking assistance. We hope that, in the event of a cease-fire, the OAU will return its representatives to Kigali to assist in the provision of aid and respect for the peace accord.
- o We also remain focused on developments in Burundi. We hope that the OAU Observer Mission there will be resolved in its pursuit of stability and peaceful accommodation between the various elements in that highly charged atmosphere. We appreciate your personal involvement in mediating these issues.

III. BACKGROUND

Motivated by Salim's personal energy and its recent commitment to conflict resolution in Africa, the OAU has been involved in both Rwanda, prior to and in concert with the UN's engagement, and in Burundi, where the OAU, after lengthy negotiations, is in the process of assembling a 47-man observer contingent. Apart from diplomatic initiatives, the OAU's effectiveness has been inconsistent. Thus far, the OAU has been hampered in its efforts by a distinct lack of resources. Over the last two years, the USG has allocated \$4.5 million to expanding the OAU's conflict resolution capability; \$250,000 has been dispersed specifically for the Burundi mission. We remain in regular and frequent contact with Salim and his staff regarding the OAU's steps to institutionalize its conflict resolution mechanism and its spending plan for U.S.-provided assistance.

Attachment:

Biography of OAU Secretary General Salim Salim
(SECRET/NOFORN)

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